

Application No. 09/819,085
Amendment "A" dated July 1, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed April 21, 2004

REMARKS

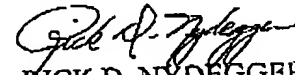
The first Office Action, mailed April 21, 2004, considered claims 1-14.¹ Claims 1, 2, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over So (U.S. Patent No. 6,179,489) in view of Shaw (U.S. Patent No. 5,604,843).² Claims 3 - 10 and 13 - 14 were allowed.

By this paper, the rejected claims have been cancelled without prejudice with respect to continuing the further prosecution of those claims in a related application. Accordingly, since all remaining claims have been allowed it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for immediate allowance.³

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 1st day of July, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,


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¹ The Office Action references claims 1 - 16 as having been considered, and claims 15 - 16 are indicated as allowed. However, as clarified in a follow up call to the Examiner on May 26, 2004, there is a typographical error in the Office Action. Only claims 1 - 14 are pending, since claims 15 - 16 claims were canceled in the Preliminary Amendment filed May 15, 2003.

² Although the prior art status of the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicants reserve the right to challenge the prior art status of the cited art at any appropriate time, should it arise. Accordingly, any arguments and amendments made herein should not be construed as acquiescing to any prior art status of the cited art.

³ In the Interview Summary of May 25, 2004, the Examiner noted that "It was agreed that the rejected claims (1,2,11,12) of the present application will be canceled and presented in a continuation, so that the present application will be in condition for allowance."